

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 SCCT-02 OMB-01 NIC-01 AID-20 PC-10

SY-03 OPR-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EB-11 DRC-01 /144 W
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R 090901Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3244

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 2249

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: STUDENT PROTEST ACTIVITY

REF: SEOUL 2222

1. GROUP OF ABOUT 60 STUDENTS (ACCORDING TO POLICE ESTIMATE) MET ON CAMPUS OF SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY ENGINEERING COLLEGE APRIL 9 AND RESOLVED TO BOYCOTT CLASSES UNTIL GOVERNMENT MET THE FOLLOWING DEMANDS:
 - A. RELEASE ARRESTED STUDENTS AND APOLOGIZE TO PUBLIC FOR BRANDING STUDENTS COMMUNISTS;
 - B. WITHDRAW TRAITOROUS EMERGENCY MEASURES;
 - C. ABOLISH YUSHIN SYSTEM AND IMPLEMENT FREE DEMOCRACY; AND
 - D. CABINET SHOULD ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ECONOMIC TROUBLES AND RESIGN.

2. USIS PRESS SOURCE INFORMS THAT ONE STUDENT CARRYING 1,000 HANDBILLS VISITED FOREIGN WIRE SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE. STUDENT SAID RALLY HAD "FIZZLED" BECAUSE OF POOR COORDINATION. HANDBILL WAS SIGNED BY STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF SNU ENGINEERING COLLEGE.

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3. G-2 HAS A REPORT THAT POLICE IN KWANGJU, CHOLLA NAMDO, ARRESTED SEVEN STUDENTS OF CHONNAM UNIVERSITY WHO WERE DISTRIBUTING ANTI-GOVERNMENT HANDBILLS APRIL 9.

4. COMMENT: ABOVE REPORTED INCIDENTS ARE FIRST DIRECT CHALLENGE TO FOURTH EMERGENCY MEASURE. WHETHER SNU RALLY "FIZZLED" OR NOT IT IS ANOTHER MARK OF THE PERSISTENCE OF ANTI-GOVERNMENT STUDENT ACTIVISTS. COUPLED WITH SELF-IMMOLATION (REPORTED SEPARATELY) DEMONSTRATION WILL ADD TO ATMOSPHERE OF UNCERTAINTY WHICH IS PERVASIVE EVEN IN HIGHER GOVERNMENT CIRCLES.
HABIB

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